



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key, Commissioner

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Arkansas Department of Education Announces Launch of Arkansas Declaration of Learning Initiative

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is proud to partner with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms to launch the Arkansas Declaration of Learning initiative. Arkansas is the first state to participate in this national program.

The partners will initially work with up to 30 Arkansas teachers and school librarians who teach grades seven through 12 in the fields of art, English language arts and social studies. The group will develop curriculum that brings history to life and shares the importance of stewardship and civic engagement.

This program is part of a national inter-agency educational initiative that began when representatives from 14 national partnering organizations signed the Declaration of Learning in 2012. This document pledged that the U.S. Department of State, the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and 12 other national organizations would work with state and local partners to co-create learning tools for educators and students in middle and secondary education using historic art and objects from their respective collections and best practices in education.

During this pilot year, a select group of exemplary Arkansas teachers and school librarians will learn about the primary resources available at participating museums. From these objects, educators will begin developing lesson plans and learning activities and will refine and test them in Arkansas classrooms and school libraries during the 2015-16 school year. They will share the results of their work at an event at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in the fall of 2016.

Teachers and school librarians selected to participate in this program will commit to a year-long initiative that will begin with a two-and-a-half day program July 8 to 10, 2015, at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Applications for the program are open and will close at midnight on April 28, 2015. Stipends will be provided to selected participants. To apply, please visit <http://crystalbridges.org/arkansas-declaration-of-learning-application/>.

For more information about the Arkansas Declaration of Learning, please contact Cassandra Barnett at (501) 682-6576. Media calls should be directed to Kimberly Friedman, director of communications, at (501) 683-4788.

For more information about the application process, please contact Zev Slurzberg at zev.slurzberg@crystalbridges.org.

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